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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,808	08/02/2001	Hiroyuki Inaba	Q65683	4296

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EXAMINER

BELL, PAUL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2675	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/919,808

Applicant(s)

INABA ET AL.

Examiner

PAUL A BELL

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The informal drawings are of sufficient quality to permit examination if I had problems with the drawings from the perspective of an examiner I would of indicated in the first action. When case is allowed the drawings will be taken to a skilled draftsman for further review. This is my standard procedure for all cases if you need me to deviated from this standard procedure please let me know. I do not anticipate any problems from the draftsman and fully expect approval of the drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strait et al. (3,964,018).

With regard to claim 1 Strait et al. teaches a display control device (figure 1) comprising: an input signal processing section for processing an input signal (figure 1, item 12); a display section for displaying an image (figure 1, item 34); a first display control section for processing an output signal from the input signal processing section and outputting a first display signal to be displayed on the display section, a second display control section operated by an operating system program, the second display control section for processing the first display signal from the first display control section and outputting a second display signal to be displayed on the display section (figure 1, items 25, 28, 40, 44, and 16); and a signal switching section for outputting the second display signal from the second display control section on to the display

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section at the normal time, the signal switching section for outputting the first display signal from the first display control section onto the display section when an abnormal condition of the second display control section is detected (figure 1, item 42, abstract, column 1, lines 40-45).

With regard to claim 2 Strait et al. teaches the display control device according to claim 1, further comprising an abnormality detection section for detecting the abnormal condition of the second display control section; wherein the signal switching section outputs the first display signal from the first display control section onto the display section when the abnormality detection section detects the abnormal condition of the second display control section (column 1, lines 40-69 and column 2, lines 1-20).

With regard to claims 3 and 4 Strait et al. teaches the display control device according to claim 2, wherein the first and second display control section comprises the abnormality detection section (figure 1, items 25, 28, 40, 44, and 16).

With regard to claim 5 Strait et al. teaches the display control device according to claim 1, wherein the operation program in the second display control section is rewritable (column 6, lines 4-48).

With regard to claim 6 Strait et al. teaches the display control device according to claim 1, wherein, the first and second display signals comprises image data regarding a same condition. (inherent feature because the Strait et can select and look at any sensor reading at any time but when a sensor reading becomes to high it is displayed and since the abnormal value may be “almost the same” as the normal value only a bit higher it reads on this very broad language)

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With regard to claim 7 Strait et al. teaches the display control device according to claim 6, wherein the first display signal outputted from the first display control section is lower in display resolution than the second display signal outputted from the second display control section (figure 1, item 40 and item 34).

With regard to claim 8 Strait et al. teaches the display control device according to claim 6, wherein the first display signal outputted from the first display control section is fewer in data amount than the second display signal outputted from the second display control section; and each segment of an image expressed by the first display signal outputted from the first display control section is bigger than that of an image expressed by the second display signal outputted from the second display control section (figure 1, item 40 and item 34).

With regard to claim 9 Strait et al. teaches the display control device according to claim 5, wherein the operation program is read from an outer unit, and stored in the second display control section (column 6, lines 4-48 it is inherent that a "outer unit" as broadly claimed provide the inputs that when true enable programing, or writing into, a programmable read only memory (PROM) because that is the only way it could be programmed).

With regard to claim 10 Strait et al. teaches the display control device according to claim 9, wherein the outer unit is a memory card (It is inherent that a outer unit used for programming the PROM has a memory).

With regard to claim 11 Strait et al. teaches the display control device according to claim 9, wherein the outer unit is a server from which the operation program is read through a network

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(It is inherent that a outer unit is a “server” because it services the PROM by a network which is the electrical connection).

With regard to claim 12 Strait et al. teaches a display control device (figure 1) comprising: an input signal processing section for processing an input signal representing a vehicle condition (figure 1, item 12); a display section for displaying are image (figure 1, item 34); a first display control section for processing an output signal from the input signal processing section and outputting a first display signal to be displayed on the display section; a second display control section operated by an operating system program, the second display control section for processing the first display signal from the first display control section and outputting a second display signal to be displayed on the display section (figure 1, items 25, 28, 40, 44, and 16); and a signal switching section for outputting the second display signal from the second display control section on to the display section at the normal time, the signal switching section for outputting the first display signal from the first display control section onto the display section when an abnormal condition of the second display control section is detected (figure 1, item 42, abstract, column 1, lines 40-45), wherein the first and second display signals comprise image data regarding the vehicle condition, and the image data of the display signal from the first display control section has a lower resolution than the image data of the display signal from the second display control section (See column 1, lines 34-45 in normal state multiple conditions of the vehicle are read and displayed but when there is an abnormal level

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only one value is displayed and this corresponds to less details in the signal which broadly reads on a signal of “lower resolution”).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 2 October 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues on pages 9 and 10 with regard to claim 1;

“Strait does not teach or suggest a signal switching section for outputting the display signal from the second display control section on the display section at the normal time, the signal switching section for outputting the display signal from the first display control section onto the display section when an abnormal condition of the second display control section is detected”

The examiner disagrees because Strait et al. in column 1, lines 34-45 teaches under normal conditions displaying multiple conditions of the vehicle and under abnormal conditions “switching” to display only one signal condition this reads on the broad language used above such as “signal switching section” it is inherent that Strait must monitor the signals in order to implement the “override function” of his (ALSO SEE ABSTRACT).

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The applicant argues on pages 10 and 11 with regard to claim 12;

“Strait does not teach or suggest “the first and second display signals comprise image data regarding the vehicle condition, and the image data of the display signal from the first display signal from the first display control section has lower resolution than the image data of the display signal from the second display control section”

The examiner disagrees and references the rejection of 12 above with regards to the broad “lower resolution” language used. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

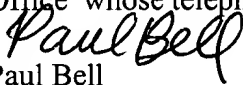
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Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Bell whose telephone number is (703) 306-3019. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Saras, can be reached at (703) 305-9720.

Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
or faxed to: (703) 872-9314

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



Paul Bell

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18 December 2003


DENNIS-DOON CHOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER